

could be seen at almost any time in the vicinity of this pond, but the two flat nests of sticks and grass, one with two eggs and the other with three, were the only evidences of breeding which could be found, the whole colony of birds seeming to confine their attentions to these two nests. Frequently when disturbed four or five of the birds would settle around one nest, and then take flight, one by one, leaving one bird in final possession. The eggs were laid on May 7, and when last examined, four weeks later, had not yet hatched. The accompanying photograph (Pl. IX, fig. 2, facing p. 287) shows the nature of the nest and the marking of the eggs. In the top of a dead pine and within rifle shot of the gull's nesting site was found the nest of the only pair of Ospreys seen in the region.

Many notes were kept concerning the doings and habits of the various birds, but they do not differ materially from records kept elsewhere and hence need not be mentioned. One unusual occurrence, however, was the evening drumming of a Ruffed Grouse during a period of some three weeks in May. Beginning each evening about nine o'clock, this energetic bird, at regular intervals, would sound the rolling, drum-like beat so characteristic of the species, often continuing its subdued love tattoo until late into the night.—E. A. STERLING, *Brooklyn, Pa.*

Some Notes from Western Texas.—An unexpected delay in the publication of the results of our work in Texas under the auspices of the Biological Survey has suggested the desirability of making known through the medium of 'The Auk' some of our more interesting discoveries in the western part of the State. With but few exceptions the species mentioned below are unrecorded from Texas.

Columba fasciata.—Common in the Chisos, Davis, and Guadalupe Mountains.

Syrnium occidentale.—Found by Mr. Vernon Bailey and Mr. L. A. Fuertes in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Antrastomus macromystax.—Common in the Chisos Mountains, and noted also in the Guadalupe Range.

Aëronauts melanoleucus.—Of regular occurrence in the Chisos, Davis, and Guadalupe Mountains.

Cœligena clemenciæ.—Common in the higher parts of the Chisos Mountains.

Calothorax lucifer.—Taken in the Chisos Mountains.

Myiarchus nuttingi.—Found in the hills south of Alpine.

Empidonax difficilis.—Occurs in the Chisos and Guadalupe Mountains.

Cyanocitta stelleri diademata.—Of tolerably common occurrence in the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.

Apelocoma sieberii couchi.—Abundant in the Chisos Mountains, but not observed elsewhere.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus.—Mr. Bailey reported it tolerably common in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Loxia curvirostra stricklandi.—A small flock was found by Mr. Bailey in the Chisos Mountains.

Piranga hepatica.—Tolerably common in the Chisos, Davis, and Guadalupe Mountains.

Piranga rubra cooperi.—Common in suitable localities in extreme southwestern Texas.

Vireo solitarius plumbeus.—Tolerably common in the mountains west of the Pecos River.

Dendroica graciae.—Mr. Bailey secured one specimen in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata.—A tolerably common transient in western Texas.

Sitta pygmaea.—Common in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Parus inornatus griseus.—Fairly common in the Guadalupe Mountains.

Parus gambeli.—Common in the higher portions of the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.

Psaltiriparus plumbeus.—Abundant in the high mountains of southwestern Texas.

Psaltiriparus melanotis lloydi.—Abundant in the Chisos and Davis Mountains, and also in the Ord Mountains south of Alpine.

Poliophtila caerulea obscura.—Common in suitable localities west of the Pecos River.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Campbell's *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*.¹—Mr. Campbell is to be congratulated by all his brother ornithologists on the satisfactory completion of a great undertaking. The 'Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds' forms a work of over 1100 rather closely printed pages, and treats of 765 species and subspecies. The eggs of many of the species are illustrated in the 27 colored plates, and the nests and eggs and breeding sites of many more in the large number of very effective half-tone illustrations, published as full-page plates. There is also a portrait of the

¹Nests and Eggs | of | Australian Birds | including the | geographical distribution of the species | and | popular observations thereon | By | Archibald James Campbell | Melbourne | With Map, 28 Coloured Plates and 131 Photographic Illustrations | — | Part I [and II] | — | Printed for the author | by | Pawson & Brailsford, Sheffield | 1900. | (All rights reserved)—Roy. 8vo, Part I, pp. i-lx + 1-524; Part II, pp. 524-1102, frontispiece (pt. I), portrait of John Gould; frontispiece (pt. II), portrait of the author, map, 26 colored plates, and 131 half-tone illustrations.